

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 7, 2006

The Honorable Jim Nussle  
Chairman  
House Budget Committee  
309 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John M. Spratt  
Ranking Member  
House Budget Committee  
B71 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nussle and Ranking Member Spratt:


We write on behalf of the 2.5 million families who live in public housing throughout the nation and we respectfully urge you to provide an additional \$2.6 billion in the FY2007 budget for public housing programs. Years of under funding are having a growing detrimental impact on the public housing authorities throughout the nation.

As you may know, senior citizen households represent 31% of all public housing households, with 72% of these seniors relying on Social Security payments as their primary source of income. 31% of public housing households are home to people with disabilities. Over 863,000 children live in public housing, or about 41% of all residents. Congress must also recognize that nearly half of non-elderly, non-disabled households obtain their primary source of income from working. No matter what a resident's personal situation, they all deserve clean, safe and affordable housing. We, the Congress, have an obligation to provide their housing authorities with the necessary funding to meet these needs.

Over the past years, public housing authorities have struggled to maintain the facilities they manage. The additional money will provide full funding for the Public Housing Operating Fund at \$4.35 billion, the Capital Fund at \$3.5 billion, and HOPE VI at \$600 million. Each of these programs provides key funding streams that pay for major repairs and improvement, heating and cooling, and, in the case of HOPE VI, complete demolition and replacement of severely distressed housing.

We believe that providing decent housing to America's seniors, disabled and youth speaks to who we are as the most prosperous nation ever on Earth. As Americans, we must live up to this potential and promise.

Sincerely,



Charles B. Rangel

Donald M. Payne

Ed T. Burns

Mayor R. D. Davis

Andrew B. Rice

Mark Waters

Frank J. Gotterman

George Miller

He H. H.

Eliza E. Cummings

Doris O. Matsui

Shirley B.

Jim Oberstar

Rubin Hingoria

Jed Strickland

Steve Erad

Jim Huber

Frank Pallone Jr.

Melvin L. Watt

Henry A. Waxman

Bar Cini

Ellen Ocasio

Gregory W. Meeks

Al Swift

Adam Smith

Tim Ryan

Chole E. Kildee

Marsha Blackburn

Eleonore North

Edward J. Markey

Tammy Baldwin

Jim McDemott

Jan B.

Leonard L. Bassett

Dana O'Brien

Julia Carson

Barbara Lee

Stephanie Roberts

Caroleen McCaussey

Robert Welch

Donna

Stephen J. Finkel

Harry L. Ackerman

R.

Martin Olov Sabo

Raul M. Grijalva

Tom Allen

Joe Pat

Michael M. Mink

Hy Ecker

Carl B. Hoff

Dennis J. Kucinich

Hilda L. Adels

Michael R. Mink

Louise M. Slaughter

Michael E. Caputo

~~Robert A~~

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